

Application No. : 10/760,588
Art Unit : 3617

Attorney Docket No. 22498.01
Confirmation No. 1118

REMARKS

By the present amendment, Applicant has amended Claims 1, 8 (second occurrence) and 12, cancelled Claims 2, 4 and 13, and added Claims 14-21. Claims 1, 3, 5-12 and 14-21 remain pending in the present application. Claims 1, 12, and 14 are independent claims.

In the recent Office Action the Examiner rejected Claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kruchowski. Claims 1, 3, 5 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bertelsen in view of Berardi. The Examiner indicated that Claims 2, 4, 7-11, and 13 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and of any intervening claims.

The Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter is noted with appreciation. In this regard, Applicant has amended independent Claim 1 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of Claim 4, and cancelled Claim 4. Applicant has amended independent Claim 12 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of Claim 13, and cancelled Claim 13. Applicant has added new independent Claim 14, which corresponds substantially to original independent Claim 1 including the allowable subject matter of Claim 9. Further, Applicant has added new dependent Claims 15-21, all depending from independent Claim 14, which correspond to the original claims 3-8 and 11 that depended from the original independent Claim 1. Applicant respectfully submits that for at least these reasons, amended independent Claims 1 and 12, newly added independent Claim 14, and the respective dependent claims are allowable over the prior art applied of record.

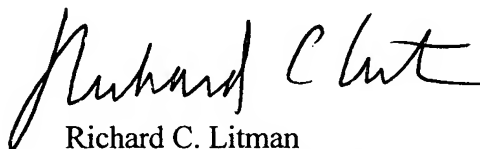
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In compliance with the Examiner's instructions, the specification at page 1 has been amended to set forth the abandoned status of Applicant's parent application. Further, the Examiner's objection to the Abstract of the application as being too long has been obviated by the present amendment. Finally, the second occurrence of original claim "8" has been renumbered to read -- claim 9 --, thus correcting the informality noted by the Examiner.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. If such is not the case, the Examiner is requested to kindly contact the undersigned in an effort to satisfactorily conclude the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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RCL:dht/jrs
Attachment